

functional and decorative element. This structure is neither taught nor suggested by the cited references.

In Fife 3,012,251 while the showerhead 26 may arguably be considered a functional and decorative element, it does not substantially conceal the waterway 29. In fact, the ball joint 30 of the showerhead 26 threads on to the end of the waterway 29 and barely covers any of the waterway. The majority of the waterway 29 is exposed to view. This defeats any possibility of providing a common decorative theme. Indeed, it is pointed out that there is no indication in Fife '251 that the tub spout 15 and the showerhead 26 are intended to or do have a common decorative theme. Claim 16 distinguishes over Fife '251 for this reason, in addition to the concealment issue.

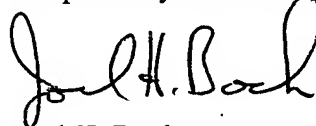
Gade 1,592,353 fails to disclose several features of claim 16. First, there is nothing in Gade '353 that suggests the functional and decorative elements, namely the tub spout 27 and showerhead 32 (or perhaps the arm the showerhead connects to), has fastening means that permit attaching and removing the functional and decorative element from only the visible surface of the support. It's impossible to tell from Gade '353 how the spout and showerhead are attached to the waterway or the water supply connections. It could very well be that the only fastening means for the spout and showerhead are at the elbows 30 and 25. The point is, Gade '353 can't anticipate the claimed fastening means when it doesn't show how its functional and decorative elements are attached. Second, Gade '353 has no indication that his tub spout and showerhead have a common decorative theme. Third, as is the case with Fife '251, Gade '353 does not conceal the waterway of the showerhead.

As stated previously, the essence of the invention claimed in the present application is a plurality of modular plumbing fixtures, different in function, but having a

common decorative theme in which the decorative and exposed portion of the fixture may be easily removed and replaced without affecting the underlying waterway connections. This enables the user to in effect change the decor of a suite or plurality of plumbing products, all in the same room, but without affecting any of the water supply connections to these products. This is a subject that is simply not shown in any of the art of record. Fife '251 and Gade '353 clearly do not have this concept in mind.

A reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel H. Bock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joel" being more prominent.

Joel H. Bock

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (Three times amended) A plurality of independent and separate water control plumbing fixtures, each having a water control function different from another and each having a common decorative theme, each fixture for mounting on a support, which support has a normally visible surface and a normally non-visible surface, and wherein each fixture has water supply connections on the normally non-visible surface and has a functional and decorative element on the normally visible surface, and wherein the functional and decorative element of all such fixtures may be removed and replaced from the fixture from the visible surface without affecting the water supply connections on the normally non-visible surface,

each fixture including a waterway attached to the water supply connections, each waterway including a portion extending beyond the visible surface and into its respective functional and decorative element to supply water thereto, the portion of the waterway extending beyond the visible surface being substantially concealed by the functional and decorative element, and fastening means mounted on each waterway on the visible surface, each fastening means including means for attaching and removing its respective [decorative and] functional and decorative element from only the visible surface of the support.